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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, TU
SUBJECT: Q'S AND A'S FOR MILLIYET CORRESPONDENT
MEHMET ALI BIRAND

REF: (A) USNATO 6084, (B) ANKARA 9683, (C) ANKARA 9491

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO, NATO FOR BURNETT

1. MILLIYET CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS, MEHMET ALI BIRAND, HAS ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TOUCHING ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. BIRAND WOULD LIKE ANSWERS TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO A SENIOR U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. I AM CONSIDERING ALLOWING THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO ME, BUT WOULD WISH YOUR COMMENTS AND AGREEMENT BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION.
2. Q'S AND A'S FOR BIRAND:
Q. U.S. AUTHORITIES ARE SAID TO HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT TURKEY'S STAND IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR LAST OCTOBER. THE REASONS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN WERE THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OVER TURKISH TERRITORY AND THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT ALLOW THE
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USE OF INCIRLIK BASE FOR THE AMERICAN AIRLIFT.

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WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THIS MATTER? DO YOU

THINK THAT TURKEY, AS A "LOYAL ALLY" WAS JUSTIFIED IN ITS POSITION?

A. THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE POSES PROBLEMS FOR TURKEY, WHICH HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED APPROACH TO THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS AND HAS SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AT FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE LONG-STANDING ANTAGONISMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS A FACT THAT EVEN WARM FRIENDS AND CLOSE ALLIES LIKE TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES DO NOT ALWAYS PERCEIVE THE DETAILS AND IMPLICATIONS OF A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING THIRD-PARTY CRISIS IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY. THE U.S. BELIEVED LAST OCTOBER THAT THE MASSIVE SOVIET INFUSION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT INTO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO AN EARLY END TO HOSTILITIES, AND WE MADE OUR POSITION KNOWN TO THE SOVIETS, OUR ALLIES AND ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS. SINCE THE U.S. ACCEPTED, EVEN THOUGH IT DID NOT FULLY AGREE WITH, THE POSITION IN WHICH TURKEY FELT IT WAS PLACED BY THE CONFLICT, AND BECAUSE FORTUNATELY OTHER ROUTES WERE AVAILABLE, THE U.S. DID NOT PRESS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT USE OF THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATION AT INCIRLIK IN THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL WHICH THE U.S. UNDERTOOK AS A RESULT OF SOVIET SHIP-MENTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. HAS YOUR APPRECIATION OF THE BASES IN TURKEY CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR? HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE AFTER THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST? HAVE THESE DEVELOPMENTS CHANGED TURKEY'S STRATEGIC PLACE IN U.S. AND NATO PLANNING?

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A. BASE FACILITIES USED BY THE U.S. MILITARY IN TURKEY ARE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS UNDER JOINT TURKISH-U.S. CONTROL. THESE INSTALLATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO ENABLE OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT EFFECTIVELY THEIR COMMON DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES ARISING UNDER NATO AND OUR BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATION-

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SHIP. SITUATED AS IT IS ON THE SOUTHERN FLANK
OF NATO AND AT THE EASTERN END OF THE MEDITER-
RANEAN, TURKEY'S CONTINUED ABILITY TO DEFEND
ITS INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY ARE AS
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